

Saint Louis in the Gilded Age

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Saint Louis in the Gilded Age, by Katharine T. Corbett and Howard S. Miller. St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society Press, 1993. ix, 102 pp. Illustrations, bibliographical essay. \$12.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY JEFFREY S. ADLER, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Too often urban historians have been insensitive to the physical development and material culture of the cities they have studied. Katharine T. Corbett and Howard S. Miller attempt to redress this imbalance with *Saint Louis in the Gilded Age*. The book consists of a brief text and 162 richly reproduced illustrations. In part, the volume was designed to accompany an exhibition at the Missouri Historical Society on late nineteenth-century Saint Louis. Thus it includes brilliant photographs of physical artifacts as well as an impressive array of nineteenth-century photographs and maps. The second section of the book, which includes dozens of street scenes, is drawn principally from Richard Compton and Camille Dry's 1876 book of bird's-eye sketches, *Pictorial St. Louis*.

The strengths and the weaknesses of Corbett and Miller's book reflect the project's origins. With its roots in a museum exhibit, the first portion presents extraordinary images of Gilded Age Saint Louis. The world of the elite and the middle class, however, receive disproportionate attention. The second portion of the book consists of "twenty-four visual case studies" (viii). Consequently, the authors produce fascinating vignettes about neighborhoods and strands of economic and cultural life, though the text lacks a clear, unifying theme. In short, *Saint Louis in the Gilded Age* does not provide a sustained examination of the city's development, but it does offer a striking visual record of late nineteenth-century Saint Louis.

Lost Twin Cities, by Larry Millett. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1992. ix, 336 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$49.95 cloth, \$29.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY BARBARA BEVING LONG, RIVERCREST ASSOCIATES, INC.

Lost Twin Cities is a detailed examination of the physical development of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. The work ranks among the best examples of the "lost" genre, a category that concentrates on buildings and places demolished or altered as a community develops. The book begins with a fine introductory essay on change in an urban setting, then moves on to an excellent chapter, "The Shape of the Past:

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